

1.1.1.1.1.1.5a.2.4a Howard Joseph SAALMAN*

Birth Date: 25 Apr 1921
Birth Place: Danville, Dubois Co., Illinois
Occupation: Sales & Marketing, Allis-Chalmers Co.
Education: .5 Yr. College
Religion: Christian

Notes:

Howard recorded these recollections in 1978, and Monette transcribed them in Aug, 1992:

... Then the youngest child was Victor and his middle name was Joseph, Victor Joseph Saalman. He was born on November 1, 1899, also in Birdseye Wayne County, Indiana. He was 57 years old at the time that he was killed in an automobile accident and that was in August of 1956, but I don't have the exact date. Now he was pop's youngest brother as you notice there and he is the one who was missing for approximately 16 years. I remember as a small child that we used to see Uncle Victor quite often. We were living in Harvey, Illinois and he lived in Chicago and as far as my recollection goes he worked either for a new car automobile dealership or he dealt in used cars. But we think that he got mixed up with some kind of syndicate or a crooked bunch of some kind and had to skip town and he was gone for 16 years and it wasn't until a woman he married during those years that he was missing was on her deathbed and he had to have somebody to turn to so he called Aunt Minnie from a town called Moberly, Missouri, and he had taken the assumed name of Carl Carlson. And, of course, Pop and Aunt Minnie and some of the others went down to Moberly, Missouri to visit him and his dying wife at that time and thereafter Pop went down and visited quite often. His wife did die. He then remarried and ran a business called Carlson's office supply. In fact one year, Pop and I went down there and went fishing with Uncle Victor or Uncle Carl, as he was known as. His wife never could figure out how his Pop and Victor were brothers, why their last name was different. And of course, I guess a number of lies were told to try to reason that out.

I think at this time, I ought to add a few notes about my dad just to give you a little background on him. Naturally he was raised on a farm because his dad was a farmer, but after mom and Pop were married in 1912, Pop became a railroad worker and he worked for the C&E.I., which was the Chicago and Eastern Illinois Railroad. And you probably recall the one story I told you before about him and that is that he was a fireman on one of these switch engines and they were switching some cars into a siding and these old engines had roll down shades on the outside of the engines which they called blinds, I guess, and they were backing into a siding and my dad, of course, was looking to the front with his head sticking out the window and just by chance, I guess he pulled his head in to maybe go and look the other direction and just as he did, the engine swiped against a boxcar on the rail next to him and it was so close that it swiped the blinds or the curtain off the outside of the engine. Had he not pulled his head in, he would have lost his head that time.

I can tell you I suppose a lot of other stories about Pop. He was a, he loved hunting and fishing, he took Hollis many times on rabbit hunting trips and squirrel hunting trips and things like that so that many time we had rabbit to eat and squirrel to eat. I never did go hunting with him because I didn't like the idea of, you know, shooting anything, but Pop was also a great fisherman. And boy anytime he could get a few moments to get somebody to go fishing with him, he was off and running. And of course I went fishing with him many times, probably more times than Hollis did, but Pop had two or three cronies, you know here in Harvey, when he was running the bodyshop and boy they'd take off and go fishing down to Kankakee in Momantz River and he enjoyed river fishing more than anything else. And of course when you river fish, he usually caught carp or you caught bullheads or catfish and as far as he was concerned that was real good eating. I don't think he'd think much of going up to Lake Michigan and going fishing out there for perch. You know which you and I used to do up there in Milwaukee.

I'd like to add a few other things too. I mentioned that Pop worked for the railroad, but in later years, and of course, I don't know the year, in later years, he took a job with a company called the The Bower Cab Company. And it was at the Bower Cab Company that he learned so much about putting automobiles together

and building them and this is where he learned his trade of putting new tops on automobiles. In the old days, instead of the car top being baffled, it had some metal on the side, then in the middle it would have a strip of what we called oh, just car top or it was almost like an oil cloth situation, and then it would have a molding around it that would hold it on to the metal. But underneath the metal itself, the door posts and everything on the car, they were formed of wood and then the metal, of course, was fabricated at the factories and fit around the wood. So as you can well imagine, with these unusual tops on the cars, many cars would develop leaks in the roof and water would seep in there and would rot out the roof, which was underneath. The door posts as well as the wood that was in the roofing and Pop was just a marvelous person, you'd almost have to call him an artist in that end of the work, being able to take off that old top and chop out all of the old rotted wood that was in there and then to take 2x4s and 2x6s and what have you and with a hatchet in his hand, being able to form shapes that simulated that there were in the original car and screw those into place or glue them into place, as the case might be and then to put the new roofing on or the car topping and then to put those moldings back on and seal that all up.

I recall I worked at the Harvey Auto Bodyshop with him from the time I was in grade school, maybe 6th, 7th or 8th grade until I got to be a junior in high school so I saw him do many of those things. In fact, I was the one usually that got on the Illinois Central Railroad commuter train and would ride it all the way down to 12th Street or Roosevelt Road and go to a place called Hooker Glass and Chemical Company and pick up a big roll of this top material and then walk back to the train station and ride home on the train carrying that on my shoulder and then of course walk from the train over to the top shop which was at 153rd and Broadway, between Broadway and Center in Harvey, Illinois at that time.

Maybe I can come back to some of those things a little later on too, if you want, but maybe I should say this too. Another thing about Pop, after he left the Bower Cab Company and started his own business The Harvey Auto Bodyshop, and that's just as the name implies, he rebuilt those wooden bodies under the metal, he put on the car tops, he straightened fenders and he painted the cars and incidentally, he painted all those cars by hand with a brush. There was no spray equipment at that time, or at least he wasn't using it, if there was, but, in preparing one of those cars for painting, we would use what they called wet or dry sandpaper and we'd usually have two pounds of coffee cans and since Pop didn't have any water in the building, we had, you know, big 5 gallon cans sitting outside, and when it rained, they'd collect water, or he'd go to the house in front of where his garage house and carry water out there and we'd fill up these coffee cans with water then we pulled the sandpaper into a small pad, you know, so that you can work with it on your hand, stick it down in the water, then sand all of the rough spots on the car.

Well when you got done with that, you had a car that was just, had a lot of sand in the pigment that it dried with the water in it. Then I'd have to drive the car down to our house on 158th and Ashland in Harvey, Illinois, we had water down there, of course, to hose and I'd drive the car up along side of the house, get the hose out, and using a big sponge or a cloth, I'd wet the car down and then wash it all off, wash all this old pigment down that we had accumulated. Then I'd drive the car, well, I'd dry it I guess, then I'd drive it back to the shop, and we'd pull it into one of the stalls which Pop had assigned as his paint booth, and we would then tape off certain areas of the car that we had to and then you'd have to take orange shellac and with small brushes, we'd have to go around all of the edges of the car, all of the places where molding sealed against the car, you know, like on the rooftop that I told you about previously, then there was small beaded moldings in between the fenders and the body of the car. Not like the automobiles today. And we'd have to use the shellac to make certain that any dirt that was down in there was sealed in by the shellac, so that when Pop started painting with a brush, he wouldn't run his brush into any dirt, which would then spread throughout the paint job. So we'd take an awful long time to get a car ready for painting. One with the sanding time, the taping, then the shellacking, then Pop would get busy with his brushes and paint that car, and of course, it would take, being enamel, it would take overnight, you know to dry. And even sometimes into the next day.

Well once we were certain that it was dry, of course, Pop would stripe the car. All the cars in those days had stripes down the side or along the side moldings, just above or below the door handles, on the hood, on the trunk lids and on those cars that had wooden spoke wheels, he would also stripe those with the fancy designs. And I'm sure that if you've ever visited any of the old antique automobile shows that you will see what I mean or know what I'm talking about here. Pop was an expert at striping and he also had a friend of his who, a Mr. Wilson, who was in the interior painting and special type of painting and glass work, who also did some striping for Pop. He was certain an expert as well. Okay, I think that's enough on that situation right now.

Todd, I'll give you a little information now on my grandmother's side. And one of the things I remember about her distinctly, her and Grandpa Saalman both lived in Chicago in an apartment building and they were very near the "EL" so I don't know exactly just, it seemed to me that the "EL" was running at a east westerly direction at that point where they lived, and they lived just south of that on the east side of the street, it seemed to me. And of course they would come out and visit in Harvey, once in a while.

And I recall many many times seeing her smoke a pipe. She'd sit on the porch there with Grandpa Saalman. He smoked a pipe also. He always had a very bad color. I don't know, you know, didn't look like a healthy color, of course, he was quite old I guess at that time. Well, let's see, if I was born in 21 and he died in 1933, I was just 12 years old when he died. I don't really know too much about him, but they'd sit on the porch there and talk, in fact I've got a snap shop of he and Grandma Saalman sitting on the porch when we lived at 15231 Loomis Avenue in Harvey. That's where I lived when I attended first through the sixth grades of elementary school at the Whittier School in Harvey.

Now, I think from what I see on my sheet of paper here, that I'm gonna have to go over to mom's side of the family and I'll start out there with her father.

Her father's name was Josephus, he had no middle name, and his last name was Geeding. He was born May 9, 1854, somewhere in in Indiana. He died January 15, 1933. He had a brother named Lee Geeding. I don't know when he was born. He had a brother named Amos Geeding. I don't know when he was born. He had a sister named Catherine, a sister named Susan, another sister named Adeline and mom thought there might be at least two or three others, but she did not recall their names.

Now Josephus (no middle initial) Geeding, married Cornina Alice Knowlton. This is my mother's mother. She was born December 29, 1863 in a place called Bone Gap, Illinois. Now she and Josephus Geeding were married in Bone Gap, no no, I beg your pardon, I don't have that information. What I see here now is that Cornina Alice Knowlton died August 9, 1946, but she was born in Bone Gap, Illinois. She had a sister named Florence Knowlton. Also born in Bone Gap, but I don't have any other information. She had a brother named Clarence and there was Chester and then Edna. All of those being born in Bone Gap, Illinois. I do not have dates of their births or deaths.

Now that was Grandma Geeding. And her one brother, two brothers and two sisters. Out of that marriage, came the following children. And here I have quite a bit of information. I hope it is as much as you can use. There was Elbert Clarence Geeding. He was born April 16, 1883, in Missouri somewhere. He died November 10, at the age of 69. Then there was Ethel Harriet, born September 17, 1885 in Missouri. She died when she was 38 years old. Then there was Bertha Florence Geeding, born January 17, 1887 in Missouri somewhere. She died at the age of 69. Then there is Neaville Clyde. He was born November 2, 1888, somewhere in Illinois. He is my Uncle Clyde and he is still living. He presently lives down near Danville, Illinois where I was born. After him came, (by the way, Neaville Clyde was a shop worker) Elbert Clarence, who was a preacher. Then came Herman Rosswell Geeding. He was a farmer. He was born January 27, 1890 in Illinois. He died in the month of February, I don't know year at the age of 69. Then came my mother Rubie Orvilla Geeding. She was born November 13, 1892 in Fairfield, Wayne County, Illinois. And as you know, she died on December 12, 1978.

Okay, then going on with the Geeding family here, after Rubie, came Viola Augusta Geeding, she was born March 16, 1894 in Fairfield, Wayne County, Illinois. She died July 26, 1976 at the age of 82. Then comes Chesley Amos. He was born April 7, 1896. He is still living or was at the time mom gave me this information. He was a Christian church preacher all of his adult life, until retirement until a few years ago. I beg your pardon, he was not a Christian Church preacher, he was a Nazarene Church preacher. It was Uncle Elbert, the first one that I named who was a Christian Church preacher. Okay, then the next brother to my mother, was Harold Geeding. He is the one we always called Uncle Tuck or Tuk. Mom didn't recall his middle name. Didn't really know whether he had a middle name. He was born March 8, 1898. He is still living. He and his wife while he at many times had done a lot of preaching in the Nazarene Church, he and his wife are presently running a resthome or a nursing home down near Olivett, Illinois. But he is still living, I saw him of course, in mom's funeral. Then mom had a younger brother still. His name was Walter Wilford Geeding. And he was born March 29, 1900. He did September 23, at the age of 69. That would have been what, 1969. Right? Then there was a sister named Lura Beatrice Geeding. She was born March 1, 1902 and she died October 25, 1902. So she lived to be only about 7 months of age.

The one interesting thing I remember about one of my uncles and that was Uncle Herman, the one I named as Herman Rosswell, I recall when we lived on 158th and Ashland Avenue, we used to raise chickens and I had a few cocks and things like that. Of course with quite a large garden. But Uncle Herman was really, he was sort of a mean character. He was a farmer all of his life and I recall he'd take a piece of or a grain of corn and then he'd take a piece of string and a needle. He'd thread that needle with the string and punch it through the center of that corn, piece of corn, tie a knot on the end of the string so that the kernel of corn would stay on the end. Then he'd drag that kernel of corn on the ground in the chicken yard, till one of the chickens would pick it up and swallow it. Then after that chicken had swallowed it down its craw, he'd start pulling on the string and pull it out again. We used to get so mad at him, although you think back on it, and it seems funny, and even at that time, I guess as a little kid, it may have looked funny and I think it sort of taught us some bad tricks. But when we lived on Ashland Avenue, the place that I was

referring to at 158th, Uncle Herman lived across the highway there, 159th Street which was U.S. Route 6. He lived about a block and half down that road in an old rumbled down, tumbled down shack really. He had married a woman who was part Indian, I don't think she was a 100% Indian. Boy, right at the moment, her first name, Aunt ..., her first name escapes me right now, sorry about that, but they had three children: there was Gilbert Geeding, Genevieve Geeding, and can't think of the other girl's name, the oldest one, but she died quite some time ago. Oh, Uncle Herman's wife's name was Aunt Louella. You know, that is not an Indian name, so she had to be just part Indian. Gilbert is the one I told you turned out to be an artist and I haven't made any contact with him whatsoever, but last I heard, he was working down in Chicago, teaching at the University of Chicago, I believe.

Let's see if I can go back here and recall anything about Uncle Elbert or some of the others. Uncle Elbert, I recall the fact that they had, let's see, he had all girls in the family. There was Rulene and Alice, there were four girls, as I recall, then later in life, they had a fifth girl. Never did have a boy in the family, and his wife, Aunt Bessie, yeah, Aunt Bessie, she made the best candy, that I recall. Both chocolate fudge and what we called divinity fudge. That was a white fudge, and we just used to love to eat her candy. She also made some kind of a date nut loaf candy thing that she rolled up then we'd slice it off in slices and boy it was delicious.

There were many times that we went to his house, and some of the rest of the kids and I recall my cousin Clarence and a few of the others, we'd go there, and they lived on a farm, and naturally since there weren't enough beds to go around, we always slept on the floor. We had some great times fighting during the night and everything else and kept everybody awake. Doing things that we shouldn't do, you know, as kids do.

Going down the list of course, I did not know Ethel Geeding because she died when she was 38 years old and, let's see, she was born in 1885, yeah she died after I was born, sometime I guess.

Aunt Berthie, you know for the life of me I can't think of what her husband's name was, but Aunt Berthie had two daughters, one Beulah, and the other one Thelma. Beulah married a man by the name of Smith and he turned out to be a drunkard. Later on they got divorced. Valma married a guy who was a sort of a health nut and an exercise nut. They lived in a house right next door to us when we lived on 15231 Loomis Avenue in Harvey, they lived in 15233. And the house was identical to ours, except the floor plan was reversed. He lived there with Aunt Berthie, and he was always out in the backyard with these dumbbells and exercise things and getting out there stretching his muscles, always talked sort of goofy. I always thought he wasn't quite right, but he was a real nice guy. He is still living and so is Valma and so is Beulah. Beulah finally married one of her cousins. I can't tell you which one.

Okay, Uncle Clyde. Let's see, he's a short, fat guy and he worked over at the Stoveworks, what we called The Stoveworks, in Harvey. And so he was in shop work all of his life, but he was also capable of preaching. He attended the Nazarene Church.

I've already told you about Uncle Herman. Told you some things about mom. And you had many clippings on her, so you know what she was like, in the way of activity and so on.

Viola Augusta, this was my Aunt Gussie. Aunt Gussie, I can't remember, I can't recall Aunt Gussie's husband's name, but he was a great big boozier and about the only thing I can really remember about him is that he was drunk all the time. They had four boys. It was Everett, my cousin, Everett Lyons. Then there was Luther Lyons, there was Berlee Lyons, and then Clarence Lyons, then there was Eldon Lyons. As far as I know, Everett right now is living in the State of Washington. Luther Lyons is in a mental institution and has been for a long time. He married a girl that works over at Allis-Chalmers and I know her real well. Naturally because she's my cousin by marriage. Then let's see, Berlee lives in Harvey, Illinois. She married a fellow by name of Bus Cogswell. And then there was Clarence Lyons. I think somewhere along the line, Clarence was married, but has gotten divorced and all that. He is what you might call a Harvey town drunk. Just is very pitiful. Although he has taken the cure, a couple of times, and it appeared that he was cured, he apparently is not because he's.... Helen was telling me the other day that she saw him on the street in Harvey. And then Eldon Lyons. Eldon was a little bit on the goofy side too and he died at quite a young age.

Then looking down the list, Uncle Chester or Uncle Chesley rather, he was a preacher and an evangelist. He had all boys as I recall. And, I can't remember all their names, Todd, and it probably is not too important for this particular study.

Uncle Tuck didn't get married till very late in life. He was a tall skinny blond. One thing I remember about him, one 4th of July that he let a firecracker go off very close to his nose and it scorched his upper lip and part of his nose. I don't whether he was in process of throwing the firecracker or if it was one of those firecrackers where you light it and instead of it blowing up, you know, it just shot out the fumes,

sort of a fizzler. Anyway that's about the only thing I remember about him.

Uncle Walter, he was a preacher also, as I said, in the Nazarene Church, and his first wife's name was Inez and he had a daughter named Dorothy and a son named Wilfred. Wilfred went to the Air Force Air Corp, you know, pilot program, the same as I did. And Dorothy was always sort of a sickly girl and I think she has since died. Wilfred is still living as far as I know. Uncle Walter was a very fine preacher, a very good artist. By the way, speaking of people being artist, Uncle Elbert was a tremendous artist as well. You know I've got an oil painting of his hanging here in the house which he gave us, gave to Shirley and me, and I don't know if it was a wedding gift or just what, but we own it. He also in his preaching did what you would call chalk talks. You know they did this with various colors of soft chalk on what looked like a newspaper print. You know it's that quality of paper. And one of his daughters would play the piano, you know play various hymns and he'd stand up there and he would draw these pictures and he would preach at the same time he was drawing the pictures. So they called them chalk talks. And when he got all done, of course, he'd hang a frame over it and he had a special lighting effect that he put down at the bottom and turn on the light and the pictures were just beautiful. He was famous for that, in fact one of his daughters also was able to accomplish that same thing. Uncle Walter, that we were talking about a few minutes ago, I think he could draw also, but I don't recall having seen anything that he ever did. And, but he was a great preacher, and he was strictly an evangelist really. He did an awful lot of travelling around and singing. He and his wife Inez and in later years, after Inez had died, he had remarried and that wife also sang with him.

The last child there, Lura Beatrice died after being only about 7 months old, so I have nothing about her whatsoever.

Now let's see, that covers all of mom's side of the family.

We can go back now to ah, I hope this isn't too confusing for you. Let me go back to my father's family for just a moment. His brothers and sisters, as I told you, both Newton and Emma, had died at an early age. So I've nothing on them, but Aunt Minnie was quite a character. Specially when she, she could sing pretty good, but it was strictly that old hillbilly singing. Boy, she loved to sing, but it was really hillbilly. She married a man by the name of Jess Graddy and at one time, he worked with Pop. I forgot to mention the fact that I think he worked for Pop when Pop was with the Bowry Cab Company and then there was a short time that both he and Pop worked for the bus lines at Harvey there. And because of some lie that Uncle Jess told, my dad got fired, and that didn't make them enemies, well, it may have for awhile, but I know, you know, when I was growing up, that they were probably good friends, because we went over there many times and visited with them.

Now, if I could go over to my side of the family again, as I told you Hollis was the first born. Hollis married Doris Lane and they had one child, that was Barbara and then they were told by the doctors that they could not have any more children, so they adopted Lynn and made her their daughter; and then after that along came their own child again, Robert Saalman. As you know Robert is in business with Hollis and no doubt will take over that business when Hollis decides to retire. Lynn was married at one time and then got the marriage annulled very shortly thereafter. Barbara is married to Jim Jacobs and they have three children.

And if we go down the list here, Helen would be next. Helen was married at one time to a guy by the name of Carl Lamb. He was from Farmer City, Illinois. And I don't know what happened there, but this was when I was very young. They got divorced, and then later Helen married Leland Etchison, whom you know is Uncle Ike. And Uncle Ike and Aunt Helen had just Douglas Leroy Etchison as their one child.

And then if we come on down the list to Wilma. Wilma Lorraine Saalman married Roy Robertson. And Wilma and Roy had a son by the name of Gary Robertson, who you've met who at one time was a professional golfer and also a golf pro at the various golf courses; one over in Elkhart, Indiana, as I recall. He presently is living down in Atlanta, Georgia and working at a men's department store there. Then there's Joyce Robertson, and she is still single and living at home and working at Billings Hospital in Chicago. Okay, that takes care of Wilma.

Then next in line, of course, would be me. Your mother and I were married on September 14, 1946 at the First Christian Church in Harvey. We had three children, Todd Howard Saalman, born December 11, 1947 in Harvey, Illinois, Cook County. And then a year or two later, we had another child that was still born. We were going to name him Scott Saalman, but he was still born and had to be taken and he's buried in the cemetery, very close to where Mother is buried. And of course, Gayle Maureen Saalman, was born in 1950 on June 20. And she has since married Jim Abeggan on October 19, 1974. Still no children. And then there was Rebecca Joann Saalman. I don't recall where we picked up the name Rebecca unless it was from Rebecca of Sunnybrook Farm. But we picked up the name Joann from, you know, from your Aunt Joann.

And Becky married Randy Loehe on December 23, 1972. And that's about where we stand right now.

Then next in my family line, of course, would have been Lois. Lois Orilla Saalman, born July 10, 1925. I don't recall what year she got married, but she married a man by the name of Fred Egebrecht. They had three children. Craig Egebrecht, who is now married and has two children. Marcia Egebrecht, who married Dick Tracy, and they have two children, I believe, with a third one on the way. And then there's Troy Egebrecht. He is still single. He works part time at Orillo's Pizza Place over at Homewood.

And then going on down then to the, oh I missed Bernard in there. Bernard came before... Lois is the baby of the family. Bernard was married to Dean, I don't recall her last name, but he married her, while, very shortly after he got out of service. They had one child, Diane and shortly after her birth, I think, maybe it was by the time she was two years old, Dean ran off and left Bernard and took Diane with her back to California. And Diane is the one that lives near Monterey, California, Salinas, California. We stopped to see her after we left your house this past summer. Some time after Dean was gone and they were divorced, Bernard remarried Mary Gorrance. And Bernard and Mary had nine children. Now I can't begin to tell you what their names are, except I know the first child was a boy, Stephen and the last child was a boy named Scott. So somewhere in between there, there were seven girls... Susan, Diane, oh, you know, you name them. And I do not know what they are all doing at this time.

Maybe you would like to know a little bit about me. You may think you know everything about me, but maybe there is a lot of things you don't know. I attended the Whittier School in Harvey, Illinois, grades 1 through 6. And then I attended the Lowell School in the south part of Harvey when we lived on 158th and Ashland, and I finished 7th and 8th grade there. And graduated 1935. Then I attended Thornton Township High School in Harvey which was the only high school in the area at that time, other than in Chicago Heights. I graduated 1939 and with just general course. I took no foreign languages or anything.

I went into service ah... well let's see, I should go back and I told you before that during, I think, 7th and 8th grade, I worked with Pop at the shop and also worked for him in high school. My 1st and 2nd year, maybe part of the 3rd year. The 3rd year, I started working for J.C. Penney Company. I worked in the stockroom there and worked myself up to being the assistant manager and I managed the shoe department. Then later on, of course, I managed the entire men's side and then for awhile I switched over and managed all of the women's side; you know, yard goods and dresses and what have you, and doing all the buying for that and also selling as well.

I went into service in June of 1943. I enlisted, went into the United States Army Air Corp., and I was discharged in March of 1946. Of course, I was in the cadet program for quite a while. And I flew a Taylor Cub while I was in the college sessions. And then I flew the PT-17 which is a two-winged airplane. And then I flew a BT-13 in basic training. Then I went to advanced training and flew an AT-6, and during the time I was in advanced, the war ended and they put us, or I got washed out because at that time since the war was over, they were lengthening the training course and they had pilots sitting in what we call pilot pools all over the United States. I guess they tried to make things tougher and I'm not making any excuses either. I probably wouldn't have gotten all the way through advance flying anyway. But the point is that I did, I washed out during advanced flying, then I went into the radio operator mechanics school. I had a radio and what they called an ROM, standing for Radio Operator Mechanic, naturally. And I obtained the rank of corporal, being in the air force all that time.

Then when I came out of service, March of 1946, I went back to work for J.C. Penny Company. And I worked there until September 1947. Well as you know in September 1946, your mother and I, Shirley Winnifred Roberts, were married and I stayed at Penny's for one more year, almost until the time that you were born. And then I went to the Buda Company, in September of 1947, and worked until April of 1953. Then I couldn't get transferred to the sales department. I was assistant cashier and assistant bookkeeper for the Buda Company from September 47 through April 53. And I had some other jobs along there, too. But I wanted to be transferred to the sales department and they wouldn't transfer me. So I quit the Buda Company and went to work for a bakery called Service Bakery over in Tindley Park, Illinois. And I worked there from April of 53 until September of 1953. And then one of the fellows who had an adjoining home bakery route, you know one adjoining mine, had talked with a guy from Fuller Brush Company and he talked me into going with him and we both went to work for Fuller Brush Company and I worked from September 1953 to October 1953, selling brushes and cosmetics and things like that from house to house.

And then in October 1953, I quit Fuller Brush. It just made me sick, because I guess I didn't have enough drive to be a salesman out on my own. October 1953, I went back to work for the Buda Company which at that time was Allis-Chalmers, because Allis-Chalmers had purchased them. And I worked there in Harvey until February of 1956. I was a sales correspondent. And then, of course, at that time, they transferred me to West Allis, Wisconsin, February 1956, where I worked until April of 1957. And at that time, I was promoted and transferred to Columbus, Ohio. I was responsible for sales to the dealer organizations. I

was a sales representative, travelling seven states. Well I stuck that out for only about two months. Of course, we hadn't moved to Columbus, Ohio at all. Your mother, you, Gayle and Becky stayed in West Rogers Street. But in June I decided to quit and I got hired back at Allis-Chalmers in West Allis in June of 57 and of course I've been working with Allis-Chalmers to this present day. Coming up next month, I think the 26th of March, I will have had 32 years with Allis-Chalmers.

In high school, while I took the general course, I took no foreign languages or anything of a specialized nature, but I was in the glee club all four years that I was in high school. I also, you know, played the guitar and the mandolin and during high school, two other fellows and myself, we called ourselves "The Three Aces" had a radio program every morning over a radio station in Hammond, Indiana, called WWAE, which later changed its call letters to WJOB. And we had a program, I think that lasted from 15 to 30 minutes. So we'd drive over, early every morning, sing our theme song, and then sing, you know, as many other songs as we could get in in the time allotted. Then we'd sign off, get back in the car that belonged to one of the guys and drive back to Harvey and go to school all day. Well, I think we were real good, we, ah..., The fellow that played the violin, was second chair violinist in the high school orchestra. A guy by the name of Ed Hanson. And Howard [Mussler?] must have played the guitar. And he was an excellent musician, as well as an excellent singer. He was a tenor. And Ed Hanson was a bass, very deep bass. And I played the mandolin and sang the melody. And, of course, we switched off on various occasions, switching various parts.

Before I went into service, I also sang on WJOB as a soloist with a guitar, you know, country and folk, country western songs. What you might, at that time call hillbilly songs. I also played the guitar for a girls' trio. Two of the girls were sisters and one was a girl friend of mine. And we had some tremendous times in that singing group. The program was on on a Saturday afternoon, called the "Here's Your Jubilee." And it was almost like the WLS National Barn Dance used to be. Or the Grand Old Opera on a very very much smaller scale.

And in high school also besides being in the glee club, I earned a high school letter in track. I ran on the relay team; I was one of the pole vaulters on the pole vaulting team. I also ran the 100 yard dash, and I was in the broad jump. And that's how I earned my letter and one of the school sweaters with a great big letter "T" on it, you know, for Thornton.

You know I've always been interested in the Bible and being a good Christian. I've, as you well know, held positions as song leader and choir director, bible school teacher, elder and treasurer of various churches throughout my lifetime. And I praise the lord that I have had all that experience with him and I praise the lord that Christ did die for my sins and that's the reason why I want to be a Christian and continue to live a Christian life. And you know that your mother and I both were continuing in that kind of a life and Vi and I continue to live that way. And we'd hope that someday all of our children would come to the saving knowledge of Jesus Christ.

Spouse: Shirley Winifred ROBERTS
Birth Date: 8 Jan 1920
Birth Place: Harvey, Cook Co., Illinois
Death Date: 22 Feb 1973
Death Place: West Allis, Milwaukee Co., Wisconsin
Burial Date: Washington Memory Gardens
Burial Place: Homewood, Illinois
Occupation: Housewife, Nurses Aide
Education: High School
Religion: Christian
Spouse Parents: Erie Lawrence ROBERTS & Theresa Gertrude RUPERT

Marriage Date: 14 Sep 1946
Marriage Place: Harvey, Illinois

Children: Todd Howard, Gayle Maureen, Rebecca Joanne
Other Spouses: Viva Dean Dale RICHARDS

1.1.1.1.1.1.5a.2.4a.1a Todd Howard SAALMAN*

Birth Date: 11 Dec 1947
Birth Place: Harvey, Illinois
Occupation: Software Design/Composer
Education: BA-Philosophy, BA-Music, MA-Music Composition